

## Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A content digest system comprising:
  - a content provider comprising content, wherein the content provider furnishes meta data describing the content to a digest server;
  - the digest server comprising a content digest for the content, wherein the digest server converts the meta data into characteristic values, wherein the digest server calculates an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments, wherein each of the plurality of content segments correspond to at least one of the characteristic values, and wherein the digest server generates the content digest by using the importance levels, the content digest comprising at least one of the content segments; and
  - a client, wherein the client receives the content digest.
2. The content digest system according to claim 1, wherein the digest server uses determined content scores, which correspond to characteristic values, for each of the content segments to determine the importance levels.
3. The content digest system according to claim 2, wherein the digest server determines a current determined content score for a current content segment based on determined content scores for similar content segments, the similar content segments determined through a measure comparing frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for the current content segment with frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for previously shown content segments.
4. The content digest system according to claim 3, wherein the client includes a user profile having user profile content scores for at least one viewed content segment for a user, and wherein the digest server calculates importance levels for the at least one viewed content segment based on a probability and based on the current determined content score for the at least one viewed content segment, a user profile content score for the at least one viewed content segment, or both

the current determined content score and the user profile content score, wherein the probability is determined from at least one of a plurality of frequencies, each of the frequencies indicating how often a characteristic value occurs in the content segment.

5. A content digest system, for preparing a predetermined digest for content provided by a content provider and for providing the predetermined digest, comprising:

importance level estimation means, for estimating an importance level for each of a plurality of content segments;

profile identification means for identifying the user profile of a user who has received content; and

update means for updating, based on the user profile, the importance level of at least one of the plurality of content segments.

6. The content digest system according to claim 5, wherein importance level estimation means uses content determined content scores for each of the content segments to determine the importance level, and wherein the digest server determines current determined content scores for a current content segment based on determined content scores for similar content segments, the similar content segments determined through a measure comparing frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for the current content segment with frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for previously accumulated shown content segments.

7. The content digest system according to claim 6, wherein the importance level estimation means calculates importance levels for the at least one content segment based on a probability and based on the current determined content score for the at least one content segment, a user profile content score for the at least one content segment, or both the current determined content score and the user profile content score, wherein the probability is determined from at least one of a plurality of frequencies, each of the frequencies indicating how often a characteristic value occurs in the content segment.

8. A video digest system for providing a video digest for a user comprising:  
a meta data characteristic value database adapted to store characteristic values obtained from meta data included in video content;  
an importance level calculator adapted to estimate an importance level for each of a plurality of scenes in the video content, and adapted to determine the importance level for a scene based on a determined content score for the scene, a user profile content score for the scene, or both the determined content score and the user profile content score; and  
a video digest data generator, for selecting, based on the importance levels, a predetermined number of scenes, for sorting the selected scenes along the time axis, and for generating video digest data.
9. The video digest system according to claim 8, wherein the importance level calculator uses only the determined content scores for a current scene, and wherein the importance level calculator determines the importance for the scene based on determined content scores for similar scenes, the similar scenes determined through a measure comparing frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for the current scene with frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for previously shown scenes.
10. The video digest system according to claim 8, wherein the importance level calculator receives a user profile for a user for whom the video digital data is provided, and solely employs the user profile, comprising the user profile content scores, to calculate the importance level for each of the scenes.
11. The video digest system according to claim 8, wherein the video digest data generator defines a threshold value based on the length of the time required for a video digest and sorts along a time axis the scenes that are selected based on the importance levels and the threshold value, and thereby provides a video digest.

12. A user terminal comprising:

pre-viewing transmission means, for transmitting information for predetermined content that is selected by a user from a received content list, and in accordance with a video digest time length desired by the user;

reception means, for receiving, following the reception of the information and the time length, a video digest and meta data from a content provider; and

post-viewing transmission means for transmitting results that are obtained from the user who has viewed and listened to the video digest.

13. The user terminal according to claim 12, wherein the result information transmitted by the post-viewing transmission means is a user profile identifying the user's preferences.

14. A video digest generation method comprising the steps of:

using a characteristic value for meta data to represent each of multiple scenes that constitute content, wherein each scene corresponds to at least one characteristic value;

calculating frequencies, each frequency indicating how many times a characteristic value of the meta data appears in the content;

calculating a video importance level for each scene based on a probability and based on a determined content score for the scene, a user profile content score for the scene, or both the determined content score and the user profile content score, wherein the probability is determined from at least one of the frequencies;

selecting a predetermined number of scenes, based on the obtained video importance level; and

generating a video digest from the predetermined number of scenes.

15. The video digest generation method according to claim 14, further comprising the step of:

estimating a determined content score for a current scene based on similarity to previously accumulated determined content scores for previously shown scenes, the similar content segments determined through a measure comparing frequencies of a plurality of characteristic

values for the current content segment with frequencies of a plurality of characteristic values for the previously shown scenes.

16. The video digest generation method according to claim 14, wherein the determined content scores are based on user profiles obtained for multiple users who have viewed and listened to the video digest.

17. The video digest generation method according to claim 14, wherein the video digest is generated by selecting a predetermined number of scenes based on a video digest time length received from a user to whom the video digest is to be distributed.

18. A video digest reception method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a user profile that includes information for content desired by a user, information for a video digest time length for viewing and listening; and

receiving a video digest comprising multiple scenes, sorted along a time axis, that constitute content that reflects the video digest time length, and meta data included in each of the scenes.

19. The video digest reception method according to claim 18, further comprising a step of transmitting information that is obtained from the user as a result of viewing and listening to the video digest.